

NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T


of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

(R. Davies-Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.)

for the

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1951.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the
Annual Report on the health of your District for the
year ended December 31st, 1951.

The report is confined to essential matters,
and in order to economise time, labour and paper,
information given in previous reports is omitted.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

R. DAVIES-JONES.

Medical Officer of Health.

Maengwyn,
Caersws,
Mont.

October 15th, 1952.

STATISTICAL SURVEY for 1951.

AREA	151,231 acres i.e. 236.3 sq. miles.
POPULATION	9,343
RATEABLE VALUE	£20,081
SUM represented by PENNY RATE	£79. 9. 0.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate.	77	63	140
Illegitimate	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	82	64	146

On a population of 9,343 this gives a Crude Live Birth Rate of 15.6 per 1,000 population, that of England and Wales being 15.5.

(Applying the Comparability Factor of 1.19 to Births, we have the Corrected Birth Rate of 18.45)

The Illegitimate Birth Rate for the Area is 1.6 per 1,000 population, (or corrected by Comparability Factor 1.9 per 1,000 population.)

STILL BIRTHS. 5 males + 1 female - total 6 (all legitimate, nil illegitimate), giving a Still-Birth Rate of 0.64 per 1,000 population compared with 0.36 for England and Wales. Applying the Comparability Factor (1.19) we have a corrected Still-Birth Rate for this area of 0.76.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 7 - 3 males and 4 females (all legitimate). This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 47.9 per 1,000 live births for this area, compared with a rate of 29.6 for England and Wales.

There were 3 deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age, 1 male and 3 female, all legitimate.

DEATHS

During the year there were 109 deaths in the area - 50 males and 53 females. This gives a Crude Death Rate of 11.67 per 1,000 of the population in this area, compared with 12.5 for England and Wales. Applying the Comparability Factor (0.89) we have a Standardised Death Rate of 10.46 for this area.

The table shows that there were 12 deaths from Cancer, and 44 from Heart disease + Circulatory Disease of the Nervous System, and 6 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	3	2	5
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.	-	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach	3	-	3
Cancer of Lung	--	1	1
Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
Cancer of Uteris	-	1	1
Cancer of other sites	4	2	6
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular Leisons of Nervous System	5	5	10
Coronary Disease & Angina	3	2	5
Other Heart Disease	11	15	26
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	3	1	4
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	1	2
Prostatic Hyperplasia	4	0	4
Pregnancy & Childbirth	-	1	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined Diseases	4	7	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
All other Accidents	1	1	2
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TOTAL	56	53	109
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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Notifications were received during 1951 :-

SCARLET FEVER	3
WHOOPIING COUGH	68
MEASLES	107
ACUTE PNEUMONIA	5

HEALTH SERVICES.

The village of Cwmbelan was supplied by the Council with water during the year.

Negotiations for the taking over of the water supply at Llandinam from a private company proceeded satisfactorily, and finally resulted in the Council taking over the supply as from October 1st, 1952.

The Council arranged for an extension of a water-supply from a private source at Aberhafesp.

Boreholes sunk at Llangurig, Tregynon, Carno, Llanwnnog, Adfa, Kerry and Sarn resulted in satisfactory yield of water, but a borehole sunk at Trofeglwys proved disappointing and the Council decided to investigate the possibilities of repairing the dam of the Upper Van Pool and of supplying Van, Cerrist, Trefeglwys and Llawryglyn from this source. Those investigations are still proceeding.

New plant for the purification of the Caersws Water was commenced during the year. It has now been completed and has proved satisfactory.

The boreholes at Llangurig and Tregynon have been developed and piped water supplies for these two Villages are now virtually completed.

Provision of water supplies at Llangurig, Tregynon and Aberhafesp has resulted in the Council being able to start building houses in these areas - 8 at Llangurig, 8 at Tregynon, and 4 at Aberhafesp. These houses are nearing completion and their final completion will be a welcome and important feature of the Annual Report for 1952.

Negotiations are proceeding for water supply, sewerage, and house-building at Carne, and the Council should take steps to ensure that these result in the building of Council Houses at Carno, in the sewerage of the larger part of the village and in providing water supply for the whole village by the end of 1953.

The boreholes at Llanwnnog, Adfa, Kerry and Sarn should be developed and should enable the Council to build new houses and to improve the amenities in the existing houses in these villages.

Should the Upper Van Pool prove to be a suitable supply of water. developments could follow at Van, Trefeglwys and Llawryglyn and the intervening areas.

Negotiations for the sewerage of Caersws and Llandinam are proceeding, and in Caersws the work is actually in progress. The purification of the water supply and the provision of sewers at Caersws will enable the Council to develop its housing estate by erecting houses in the undeveloped parts of its Estate. I would suggest that the sites left vacant (because of sewerage difficulties) between the existing houses at Maesawelon, and which are already served by a first-class road, are now ripe for development - good water and roads already in position and new sewers about to be laid.

The sewerage of Tregynon Village is proceeding in line with the water supply and should soon be completed.

The provision of a good water supply and sewerage system at Caersws and Tregynon should attract private building in these two villages.

The housing and sanitary position at Kerry is acutely difficult and calls for the urgent attention of the Council. Water supply and sanitation at the Van, Llawryglyn and Clatter also call for early attention.

Three licences for the building of a house by a private individual were issued in 1951.

The number of applications made (and approved of) for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 was 5. This small number is probably due to the fact that the standard of improvement required by the Housing Act is so high that it cannot be attained in a rural area within the limits of expenditure (£600) stipulated in the Act, and so owners are unable to qualify for the 50% grant for the improvement of their houses.

In concluding, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to members of the Council for their interest in Public Health, the staff for their ready co-operation, and the Sanitary Inspector for his valuable service and help, and to everyone for the kindness and courtesy shown to me throughout the 11 years I have acted as Medical Officer of Health. The appointment of a full-time Medical Officer of Health as from November 1st, 1952, brings my association with the Council to an end, and I trust that my successor will find as much happiness and will be given as much help and co-operation in the appointment as I have.

R. DAVIES JONES.

15th October, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a summary of the work of the Department for the year ending December, 1951.

The total number of inspections, visits etc. carried out by the Department's staff during the year was 2642.

The inspections may be classified as follows :-

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Inspections carried out in connection with the Housing Survey	207
Inspections connected with the supervision and maintenance of Council properties and Housing Act 1949.	445

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Inspections relating to Nuisances	36
" " Refuse Disposal	48
" " Sewage Disposal	95
" " Water Supplies	508
" " Caravans etc.	3
" " Building Byelaws	112
Application of drain tests	26

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of premises disinfected

2

FACTORIES ACTS

Number of inspections carried out 17

PETROLEUM ACT.

Number of inspections made 10

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938 and 1950.

Number of inspections made 43

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949.

Number of inspections, treatments etc. 1122

WATER SAMPLES.

The total number of samples submitted for analysis were :-

Bacteriological	82
Chemical	8

FOOD INSPECTION. During the year the following foods were found upon examination to be unfit for consumption and were destroyed :-

148 tins of canned foods, $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of bacon, 4 lbs of suet, $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of cheese.

The slaughtering of animals and the distribution of meat throughout the district continues to be centralised at Newtown and Llanidloes. During the year a number of licences were issued, licensing premises for the sale of Ice Cream. There are no manufacturers of Ice Cream in the district. Generally the standard of cleanliness found in food premises was found to be satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES. The analyses of the Caersws water supply indicate that Bacteriologically the chemically the quality of the water continues to be of a very high standard, although the mineral content remains high and far in excess of what a normal water should contain. During the year 82 samples from various supplies were submitted for examination, 53 samples were found to be satisfactory and 29 unsatisfactory, this figure indicates that the quality of a large number of supplies throughout the area is unsatisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION. All the villages with the exception of Staylittle are being serviced, the collection being done weekly with the exception of Llidiartywaen and Oakley Park which has a fortnightly collection. The service is greatly appreciated throughout the district and has prevented unsightly dumps of refuse etc. being deposited and scattered in the villages.

The collection of nightsoil is being carried out at Caersws and in December the service was extended to Llandinam.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H. H. THOMAS.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

